



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

October - Article of the Month - ARTICLE 16

Article 16 of the UNCRC makes it clear that children and young people have the right to privacy, just like adults do.

This means that:

1. they have the right to a private family life,
2. they have the right to a private space where they can go to be alone, even if they're in an institution, and
3. they have the right to keep their phone calls and emails private.

In Scotland, the right to privacy may not be respected if it puts someone in danger. For example, the police may look at a young person's emails if someone who isn't who they say they are is contacting them.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/children-and-the-uk-gdpr/what-rights-do-children-have/>

Your personal information is any information that can be identified as being about you.

For example, imagine we sent out a form that asked you to tell us your name, which school you went to and your opinion about something.

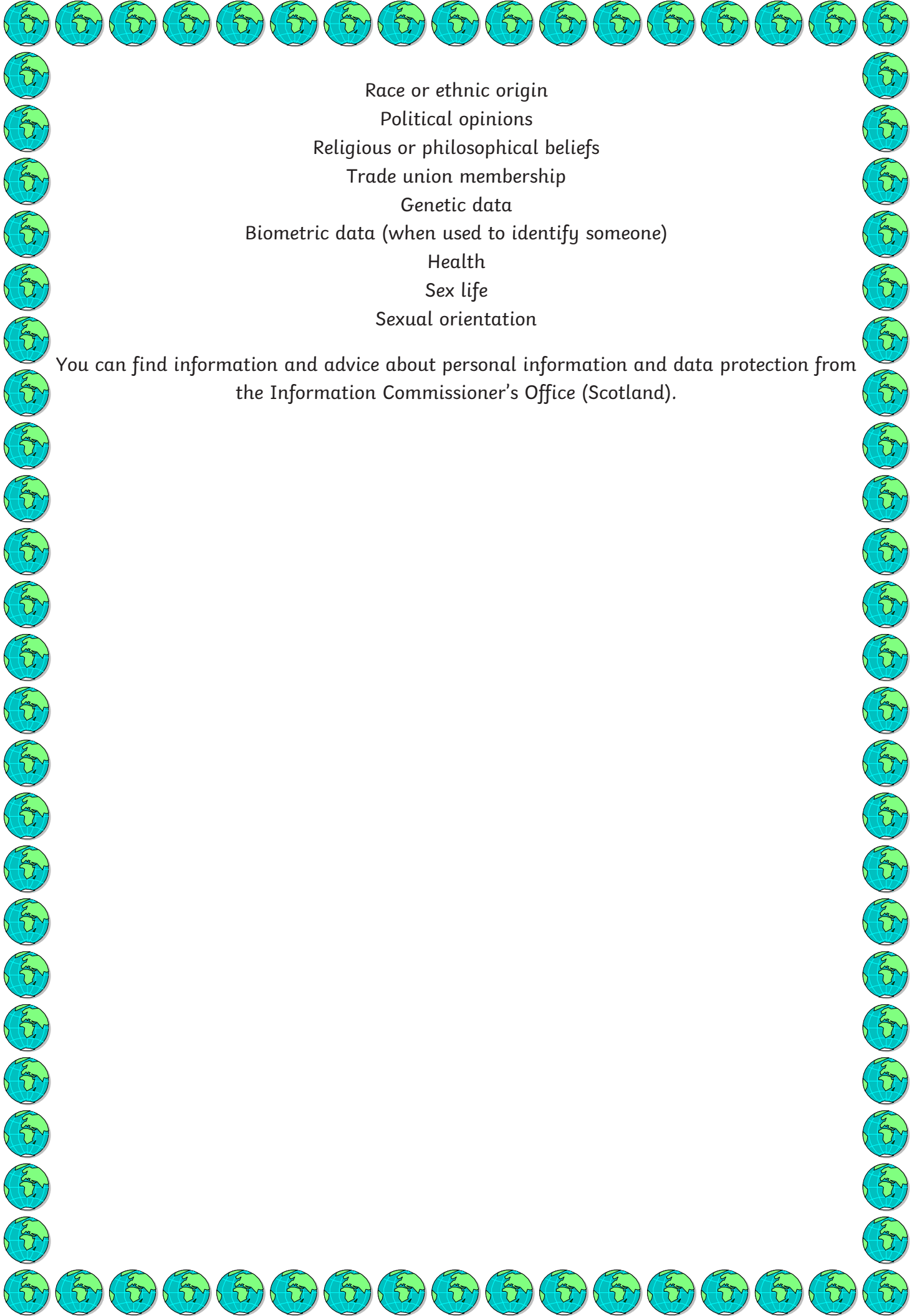
There probably isn't anyone else at your school who has the same name as you, so we'd be able to work out that you personally had given us that opinion.

That would make your name and the school you went to personal information, because we could use it to identify you. It also means the opinion you put down on the form is your personal information.

Some personal information is called special category data, which has extra protections because it's more sensitive than other personal information.

Special category data is particularly sensitive personal information. Because it's more open to misuse than other personal information, there are extra protections around it.

It includes information about someone's:

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- Race or ethnic origin
 - Political opinions
 - Religious or philosophical beliefs
 - Trade union membership
 - Genetic data
 - Biometric data (when used to identify someone)
 - Health
 - Sex life
 - Sexual orientation

You can find information and advice about personal information and data protection from the Information Commissioner's Office (Scotland).